



July 10, 2003

**Defendant in 1998 civil rights allegations
is sentenced to 18 months in prison for bail jumping**

**Cesar Moreno, an informant for a
state drug task force, fled before trial**

A federal judge today sentenced **Cesar Moreno**, 43, a former informant for a state narcotics strike force, to 18 months imprisonment for jumping bail in December 1998, before he was to go on trial for allegedly violating the rights of drug suspects. Moreno and three agents for the Attorney General's narcotics strike force were charged in October 1998 with violating the civil rights of drug suspects by falsifying witness statements. In May 1999, five months after Moreno jumped bail, the other three defendants were acquitted of civil rights charges.

United States Attorney Margaret E. Curran announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Torres also ordered that, after Moreno completes his sentence, he be turned over to Immigration authorities for possible deportation to Colombia, where he fled when he jumped bail.

Judge Torres departed upward from the sentence range that federal guidelines call for in a bail jumping case, citing the disruption of the judicial system that Moreno caused when he fled the jurisdiction before the trial.

New York City police arrested Moreno in January and he was subsequently returned to Rhode Island. In May he pleaded guilty to bail jumping. He has been detained at the Wyatt Federal Detention Center, Central Falls, since his return to Rhode Island.

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After sentencing Moreno today, Judge Torres granted the government's request to dismiss the initial civil rights charges brought in 1998.

In October 1998, a federal grand jury indicted Moreno and three Narcotics Strike Force agents on conspiracy and civil rights charges. The indictment alleged that the agents falsified witness statements claiming that certain individuals had committed cocaine and marijuana offenses. It also alleged that Moreno falsified witness statements in which he claimed that he had participated in drug transactions with those individuals. The witness statements were used to support the arrest and prosecution of individuals and the seizure of vehicles allegedly used in drug transactions.

In Moreno's absence, the other three defendants went on trial in May 1999. Judge Torres subsequently dismissed the conspiracy charge against all three and declared a mistrial for one of the defendants. On May 28, 1999, the jury found the remaining two defendants not guilty of the remaining civil rights allegations.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Reich prosecuted the case. The Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the initial civil rights charges.